

ARIZONA

# Arizona arrests of brother and sister in US Capitol riot show a link to Proud Boys

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A brother and sister arrested Thursday in Arizona face federal charges after prosecutors say they obstructed law enforcement during the U.S. Capitol riot.

A federal criminal complaint says Felicia and Cory Konold were part of a group that stormed past police, onto Capitol grounds and into the building on Jan. 6. All five are facing charges of conspiracy, civil disorder, disorderly conduct, obstruction of an official proceeding and entering a restricted building or grounds.

The five were identified through social media posts and videos.

Court documents say Felicia Konold was seen during the day with the leaders of the Proud Boys, an extremist group with ties to white nationalism. More than a half dozen members of the group, including some of its leaders, also have been charged.

The federal complaint said Felicia Konold was part of a group march led by the Proud Boys along Constitution Avenue where members could be heard shouting chants such as, "Whose streets? Our streets."

Investigators allege she was part of a group that moved to the front of a crowd during an initial confrontation with law enforcement on Capitol grounds shortly before 1 p.m. that day.

Within minutes, the crowd overwhelmed U.S. Capitol police officers, overturned metal barricades and moved toward the Capitol. The federal complaint alleges that Felicia and Cory Konold moved past the barrier and were "at or near" the front of the crowd when approaching the next barrier. This police line was soon overwhelmed.

Prosecutors say a photo appears to show Felicia and two others using their hands and bodies to disrupt or dismantle metal barriers used as crowd control.

The complaint alleges a Snapchat account that appears to be Felicia Konold's features a selfie-style video where a woman is bragging about the attack on the U.S. Capitol.

"I never could have imagined having that much of an influence on the events that unfolded today," according to a Snapchat posting in Konold's name. Another post appeared to proudly acknowledge that she had been recruited by the Proud Boys, declaring that she was "with them now."

Prosecutors say Felicia and Cory Konold were identified through photos and that cellphone data associated with their phone numbers placed them at or around that location during the time of the riot.

More than 200 people have been arrested so far as part of a sprawling investigation into the Capitol riot that drove lawmakers into hiding just as Congress was set to confirm the Electoral College results. Five people died as a result of the rampage, including a Capitol police officer.

Court records and charging documents show people came from around the country to Capitol Hill that day, including several from Arizona.

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Felicia Konold is from Tucson, but court records don't indicate where Cory Konold lives. The siblings were arrested in Arizona along with three others from other states: William Chrestman and Christopher Kuehne of Kansas and Luis Enrique Colon of Missouri.

Federal investigators said the five suspects "did advance together, as they unlawfully entered the grounds of the U.S. Capitol and the Capitol, itself."

Federal investigators singled out Chrestman as allegedly threatening police as the crowd advanced on the Capitol.

As police sought to control the rioters, investigators said Chrestman yelled: "You shoot and I'll take your f\*\*\*\*\* ass out."

At another point, he also allegedly urged other rioters to stop police from making an arrest.

"Don't let them take him," Chrestman called out.

None of the five people arrested Thursday could immediately be reached for comment by The Arizona Republic.

*The USA TODAY Network contributed to this story.*

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